

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1944.

Public Health Department,
London Road,
HADLEIGH, Essex.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Canvey Island.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting for your consideration my Sixteenth Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your Urban District for the year 1944.

In accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 49/45, of the 19th March, 1945, this is intended to be an interim report.

Throughout the year, the sympathetic consideration and assistance of the Council have been a great help.

I am especially indebted to all members of the staff of the department for their loyal co-operation and assistance.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

NORMAN LORRAINE.

M.D., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.S.E., D.P.H.,
R.C.P.S., Edin; and R.F.P.S. Glas.

July, 1945.

SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) ...	...	...	...	9,071
comprising Island, Foreshore and Tidal Waters				
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944)				
according to Rate Book ...	...	...	...	3,930
Rateable Value ...	...	...	...	£42,447
Sum represented by a penny rate ...	...	...	...	£150

In the above and following statistics, several routine details are omitted, as non-essential.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total	M.	F.	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.
<u>Live Births</u>	149	73	76	.. 19.6 ..
Legitimate	143	72	71	
Illegitimate	6	1	5	
<u>Still Births:</u>	5	4	1	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still)
Legitimate	4	3	1	births:
Illegitimate	1	1	-	.. 32.5 ..

Deaths: Total. M. F. Death Rate per 1,000 of the
 106 60 46 estimated resident population
 .. 14.0[#] ..

* The Comparability Factor is not available
 for 1944, owing to war conditions.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:

Puerperal sepsis... Nil
 Other maternal causes... 2

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:

Total number of deaths... 10
 All infants per 1,000 live births... 67.1
 Legitimate infants per 1,000
 legitimate live births... 62.9
 Illegitimate infants per 1,000
 illegitimate live births... 166.6

TABLE OF BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES.

	<u>Birth Rate.</u>	<u>Death Rate.</u>	<u>Infant Mortality Rate.</u>
1939	13.6	14.0	47.1
1940	13.9	15.2	nil
1941	16.0	15.0	50.5
1942	22.7	13.4	36.5
1943	20.3	17.1	75.0
1944	19.6	14.0	67.1

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES DURING 1944.

Age.	D E A T H S.			No. of deaths which apply to district.
	No. in district.	Outward transfers	Inward Transfers.	
Under 1 year	4	1	7	10
1 and under 2	-	-	-	-
2 " " 5	-	-	-	-
5 " " 15	2	-	1	3
15 " " 25	2	1	2	3
25 " " 35	1	6	6	7
35 " " 45	2	1	3	4
45 " " 55	3	-	2	5
55 " " 65	10	1	6	15
65 " " 75	13	1	20	32
75 and upwards.	18	-	9	27
TOTAL:	55	5	56	106

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE URBAN DISTRICT OF CANVEY ISLAND

DURING 1944.

			<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
All causes			60	46	106
1.	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	..	-	-	-
2.	Cerebro-spinal fever	..	-	-	-
3.	Scarlet fever..	..	-	-	-
4.	Whooping cough..	..	-	-	-
5.	Diphtheria.	..	-	-	-
6.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	..	1	2	3
7.	Other forms of tuberculosis	..	1	-	1
8.	Syphilitic diseases	..	-	-	-
9.	Influenza.	..	-	-	-
10.	Measles.	..	-	-	-
11.	Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	..	-	-	-
12.	Acute infective encephalitis	..	-	-	-
13.	Cancer of buccal cavity and oesoph (M) uterus (F)	..	1	-	1
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	..	3	1	4
15.	Cancer of breast	..	-	1	1
16.	Cancer of all other sites	..	4	6	10
17.	Diabetes	..	-	1	1
18.	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	..	4	3	7
19.	Heart disease	..	13	14	27
20.	Other diseases of circulatory system	..	2	1	3
21.	Bronchitis	..	5	1	6
22.	Pneumonia	..	1	4	5
23.	Other respiratory diseases	..	2	1	3
24.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	..	2	-	2
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	..	1	-	1
26.	Appendicitis	..	-	-	-
27.	Other digestive diseases	..	3	1	4
28.	Nephritis	..	-	-	-
29.	Puer. and post-abortion: sepsis:	..	-	-	-
30.	Other maternal causes	..	-	2	2
31.	Premature birth	..	-	-	-
32.	Con. mal birth inj. dis:	..	1	2	3
33.	Suicide	..	-	-	-
34.	Road traffic accidents	..	-	-	-
35.	Other violent causes	..	5	5	10
36.	All other causes	..	11	1	12

SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

In respect of (a) Laboratory Facilities, (b) Ambulance Facilities, (c) Nursing in the Home, (d) Treatment Centres and Clinics and (e) Hospitals, there are no essential changes to note.

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply. 2,859 houses were connected to the Southend Water Company's mains at the end of 1944 - an increase of 50.

There are four standpipes situated in various parts of the Island, and these serve those roads which are without water mains.

Approximately 82 per cent. of the population derive their domestic water supply from the Southend Water Company's mains.

The remainder of the population rely on main water storage tanks for their water supply, and this is boiled or filtered before use.

There are no known water supplies which are liable to have plumbo-solvent action and there have been no cases of lead poisoning notified.

The mains water supply in this District is constant and of ample sufficiency for all purposes.

Seventy-six per cent. of the dwellings on the Island use mains water by direct connection to the mains or from standpipes.

In the event of a breakdown in the mains water service, there are two storage tanks on the Island of 22,000 gallons capacity each, the property

of the Southend Waterworks Company.

There are several storage tanks maintained by the Canvey Island Urban District Council where water can be drawn from in the event of extreme emergency.

Drainage and Sewerage. There are 537 connections to the sewer affecting 1,031 properties. Twenty-five new connections were made during 1944.

Public Cleansing. 756 loads of refuse were collected from 65 bins, each bin serving several streets.

Salvage. Waste paper is collected on receipt of postcards, and also periodical collection is made from various depots on the Island. Tins, scrap iron, rubber, bottles and rags are collected.

Visits and Inspections. 973 visits were made for public health purposes during the year. 57 dwellings were made fit for human habitation following the serving of informal notices under the Housing Act, 1936.

Factories Act, 1937. A total of 19 inspections were made, including visits to premises of Outworkers.

Petroleum (Regulations) Acts, 1928 and 1936. Three licences were issued during the year.

In other branches of sanitary administration, the usual routine work was carried out, but no essential changes occurred.

SECTION D. HOUSING.

No new houses were erected during the year 1944. 146 inspections were made in respect of repairs carried out under the Housing Act, 1936.

SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply. At the end of the year 6 farms and other premises used as dairies were registered and 20 retail purveyors were also registered.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936. Two licences to sell Pasteurised Milk and two licences to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk were granted.

The licences were supplementary licences for the retail sale of the Milks mentioned above, in this District.

Meat and Other Foods. No slaughter house exists in the District. Periodical inspection is made of butcher shops and the meat therein examined.

Fish. Fish shops were inspected periodically.

Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, etc. Two samples of milk, and samples of Flaked Barley, Soya Flour, Lemon Flavour Fruit Flavouring, Continental Mustard, Lemon Emulsified Flavour, Coffee and Chicory, Sweetened Mint Sauce, Gelatine Crystals, Cocoa, Baking Powder, Green Pea Soup, Master Mix Sweetened Cake and Pudding Mixture, Essence of Almond, Blector Paste, Ground Coffee, Meat Paste were submitted for analysis during the year and in all cases the results proved the samples to be genuine.

Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders. 11 samples of milk were obtained for cleanliness, 7 of which were satisfactory.

The facts and figures shown under Sections D, D and E have been provided by the Sanitary Inspector, who resigned in May, 1945.

SECTION I. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

As will be seen from particulars of all cases of notifiable infectious disease occurring in the District during 1944 (table on page 7) the bill of health of the Island for the year is, once again, an excellent one. There was no outstanding incidence of any notifiable infectious disease throughout the year, and the number of cases of measles notified in 1944, compared with the previous year, was practically negligible.

Tuberculosis.

I am unaware of any undue incidence of this disease associated with any local cause or condition. The majority of the cases come from outside the District, chiefly from the Greater London area, having already been notified, and are transfers under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930.

During 1944, the following cases of tuberculosis were notified:-

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Pulmonary	8	6	14
Non-Pulmonary	1	1	2

It is regretted that during the year, there were four deaths from tuberculosis:

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Pulmonary	1	2	3
Non-Pulmonary	1	-	1

Scabies.

The clinic established at the First Aid Post was available at any time, by appointment, for the out-patient treatment of patients, in conjunction with the nursing staff of the Casualty Services, Civil Defence Services, attached to the Post, by arrangement with the Scheme-making Authority.

The treatment, which is given on a "family unit" basis, involves a bath and the use of 25 per cent. emulsion of Benzyl Benzoate, as recommended in the Memorandum of the Ministry of Health, 229/Med., revised June, 1942.

The following table shows the number of notifications received and the number of patients treated, during 1944:-

	<u>Adults.</u>	<u>5-15 yrs.</u>	<u>Under 5 yrs.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Notifications	45	44	11	100
Treatments	53	51	46	150

Veneral Disease.

Regulation 3 of the Act does not come within the purview of the local sanitary authority.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The scheme in this district is progressing satisfactorily, but the migratory nature of the population adds to the local difficulties.

At the end of December, 1944, the percentage of child population considered to be immunised was as follows:-

Under 5 years.5-15 years.

52.5%

55.6%

WAR YEARS - GENERAL REMARKS.

In this District, the health during the war years reveals an encouraging and cheerful picture, although the department had to work under heavy difficulties from time to time. There has been no evidence of any epidemic of a serious nature, infectious diseases in general have been well controlled, although the incidence of Infective Jaundice should be noted.

The highest birth rate was reached in 1942, when the rate for the district was 22.7 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, and the lowest death rate in 1942, when it was 13.4 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population. The infant mortality rate in 1940 was nil, and as low as 36.5 per 1,000 registered live births in 1942, compared with 49.0 for England and Wales, which was a very favourable comparison, and it will be recalled that the infant mortality rate of a district is one of the most reliable guides to the health of the community.

It is worthy of mention that the vitamin supplements, the national milk scheme and meals in schools have helped materially to improve the health of the children, and the children of to-day are the citizens of tomorrow.

In my view, the soundly based health services in this district have stood up extremely well to the strains and stresses.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1944.

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NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	Cases included in Weekly Returns.													Sex.			
	All ages.	At Ages												Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.	M.	F.
		0 to 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over.				
Scarlet fever	0	-	-	1	-	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	5	1
Diphtheria	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Acute Primary and Influenzal Pneumonia	14	-	-	1	-	1	6	2	-	-	1	3	-	1	-	10	4
Whooping Cough	3	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3
Measles	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Puerperal Typhoid	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Acute Infective Hepatitis	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	2	1